# *American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection*

*Part 1: Missionaries*

## The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

*Series I*

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

***Folder Description:***

Form letters describing Hanson's missionary work and life experience in China,
1936–June 1939

| ***Box Number:*** | ***Folder Number:*** |
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**"Then with a rush, the intolerable craving,**
**Shivers throughout me, like a trumpet call,**
**Ah ! to save these, to perish for their saving**
**Die for their life, be offered for them all !"**

Your Christmas greetings and often remembering us in prayer added much home-side joy to our village Christmas. My second mail, the middle of January, brought more loving greetings. Thank you each one. Your prayers have been answered for the Master has blessed and we've had unusual health—not even having a cold.

## NEW JOY FOR NEW VILLAGES

Our hearts are high with praise for the joy that the Master's glory is being so openly revealed for even us to see. Outwardly things are the same—the wheelbarrows, the carts, the country luggage, the mud houses, and the continuous crowds with physical and spiritual needs that so draw out one's heart, but there is a new work of the Holy Spirit in our own hearts, in the churches, and best of all, a new opening up of many old conservative villages where Christ has never been known before. There still comes that sense of awe that such joy has been given to me.

Of the eleven villages we've lived in since the last of August, two had formerly just been barely touched and four others have been absolutely newly opened. In the spring we are to go to two more new villages. Opening a new village is not easy—smashing into age-old superstition and sin, into Satan's undisputed area. Often there is no suitable place to live and not a place to meet. An open courtyard or street are the only places. It is wonderful how the Lord has tempered the winds on those days. There are the wild rumours to combat beside the dead weight of self-satisfaction and indifference to sin, but the Lord has marvelously opened hearts and the joy of bringing the Cross for the first time is one which the angels in Heaven covet.

## FAMILY-TEMPLE: A GOSPEL-HALL

In one new village the newly-built unfinished family-temple, where the ancestral scrolls are kept and where the New Year worship of ancestors is carried on, was loaned for our meetings. Jesus was worshipped there before the ancestors were and all of that village heard, for the first time, of the Cross and its power to free and forgive. In the two weeks the Lord called out over forty persons from an absolute non-Christian background to a deep conviction of sin, a full out-pouring of a life-time's sin to an experience of conversion whose reality has been tested by scorn and persecution.

## SPECIAL WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

During these months over a hundred non-Christians have come through this road of conviction, confession and persecution to accept Jesus as Saviour. This is the answer to your prayers—now please uphold them ! This new work of the Holy Spirit is within the last three years and is unceasingly evident. Hearts are convicted and converted most unexpectedly and severely, often with real physical reactions, which after full surrender and confession of sin pass away immediately. Some are unable to eat or sleep; some are ill, nauseated or partly paralysed. The more stubborn one is the greater the reaction. Christians who sin have had the same experience until sin is confessed. One young man, a baptized believer for several months, suddenly went back and on the street said most blasphemous things. At once one leg drew up much shorter than the other and he was unable to walk for several months. Later Christians talked with him and after his mother confessed the sin and groups prayed for him, his leg was much improved, but the son must come clear himself to be fully restored. It is as if God's patience with sin were being replaced by his righteous judgment. Surely His return is near ! After we left one place a young man and several boys walked several miles to get us to pray with them to accept Jesus. They said they could not stand the physical discomfort. A group of old women left their form of demon-worship to believe in Jesus. Two women most pitifully demon-possessed were released and two opium smokers were freed.

No wonder the bible speaks of a believer's first love. There was a three-day Bible class for all believers in that region and although those days were the bitterest cold of the winter, those new believers, some women with feet still bound, walked miles back and forth through the cold to the class.

## A BROKEN HOME SAVED

Mrs. Ting is just twenty, clever and very pretty. Mr. Ting is over forty and a bit slow. Mrs. Ting has cursed, scolded, and browbeaten him at will. Since she was famous in all the region for her vile speech and temper, Mr. Ting had a miserable life. She was ready to leave him with another man when Christ by His Power made her into a new person. Mr. Ting too came to Christ. The neighbours can't yet explain what has happened to Mrs. Ting but both she and her husband can't praise God enough for His mercy.

## HOW SHALL THEY HEAR ?

Mrs. Tung's husband, an opium smoker, had sold off land till they were very poor. In the home there was no peace and he was a terror to the children. Jesus saved Mr. Tung and one by one all of the family. What a difference it made ! Mrs. Tung tried to express a bit of her gratefulness by a humble service to us. At our protest she would answer- "But if you girls had not come how would we ever have known of Jesus !"

## THEIR FIRST CHRISTMAS

Christmas in the villages is a time of great joy to me. So many, even older Christians, have never had a real Christmas. The special joy this year was that at a central church gathering so many new believers could come for their first Christmas. Can you sense what it meant ? What would your life be without the Christ-Child ? Pray for those if in whose whole background even they have not heard of a Christmas that Christ be born in their hearts.

## THE SEAT OF SATAN

The village-of-the-bombing is still the seat of Satan. Even the members of the three families are not all Christians. Two young people, non-believers, of two of the families committed a great sin, making a deep hatred between the families and disgracing the Name of Jesus—until it has become a laughing stock before non-Christians.

Please accept this challenge for overcoming prayer.

## THE HOPELESS DEATH-WALL

At Chinese New Year time we returned to the Chinese home to find a big non-Christian funeral in progress. At night we followed the wailing procession, under the weird lights, to the temple of earth, where, with burning of sacrificial paper, they announced the death to the little stone idol inside the little temple. In all the world there is no sound so hopeless and forsaken as the death-wail of non-Christians.

The ceremonies of the whole day of the funeral we followed in detail. The quantities of food spread as offering; the amount of paper burned to provide money for future use; the continuous worship of the dead before the coffin; the meticulous ceremonies; provision of food and symbol implements put into the grave to serve in the next world,—all speak the inherent hope of the heart that death does not end all, but also of the futility and emptiness of man's efforts.

The spirit is supposed to enter the wooden spirit-tablet bearing the name of the dead with the Chinese character for God or Lord following the name. It is carefully carried to the grave and then back to the home, put on a table at the north wall and worshipped again with food and paper, for dead parents have become gods. Then at festival times and at the New Year, this tablet is continuously worshipped by succeeding generations.

I understood, anew, in the absence of Jesus' Truth how deeply rooted ancestor worship is in their hearts. No wonder that this is one of the deepest-seated obstacles to numbers becoming Christians.

## IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST AND WEST

Two prayers, one of aged Mrs. Fan for a daughter, and one of mine to get to know Chinese life from the inside, thus better to present Christ, were answered several years ago when Mrs. Fan adopted me as her daughter. She was then eighty-four years of age. From the exchange of gifts—from her a large mirror and from me several suits of Chinese clothes—it was accepted by all of the family who thereafter called me according to relationship, 'aunt,' 'greataunt,' etc., It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship during these years. Her heart's desire was fulfilled and I have had a rare privilege of seeing all angles of Chinese village life from the inside, sharing in common affairs of life, in festivals, as go-between in engagements, as bridesmaid in weddings, as spiritual-helper, as peacemaker, and even as helper to help bury one of the younger members.

## 'OH DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING ?'

Just after the last trip I was here to take the part of a daughter in the last illness and burial of Mother Fan. She was ninety-one years old. These last years her life has just been one continuous prayer. She slipped away so peacefully still praying.

I was in China during my own father's last illness, so it was a comfort to be here and a great blessing to see one die so beautifully. It released me from a life-long fear of the dead. "Death, where is they sting ?' Truly Christ by His Presence has taken the sting of that great experience away. May His Peace come to replace the hopelessness of death without Him.

The daughter provides the long piece of silk bearing the gilt characters telling date of birth and death which is put on top of the coffin. This desire of Mother Fan's heart too was satisfied.

"Is her American daughter here ?" "Does she wail ?" was heard being asked by the crowds who lined the street to see the funeral procession pass. Many crowded to see how the stranger mourned as she passed by in the group of the white-dressed women, the near relatives, who closely followed behind the coffin. But in the foreign daughter's heart, while there was the grief for the earthly separation and the end of a beautiful relationship, still there was deep praise for the Love of Christ transcending barriers of race and time eternally uniting hearts in Him.

Am writing from the country where, but for a short trip to Tsingtao for dental work, we've been since the last of October. For the important months ahead we are depending on your prayers.

Irene Forsythe
6 Tsi Yang Road
Tsingtao
Shantung
China

February 1936

Presbyterian Mission
6 Tsi Yang Road
Tsingtao, China

Dear Friends:

Summer, bringing new horrors to China,-bombings, suffering and death-has drawn out to Fall, with the mounting toll of life from guns, air-raids and floods; with the growing number of sonless homes and parentless children to add to the nation's sorrows. The days have benumbed a bit the first hideous horror and the revolt of the soul at it all, but still the agony of heart over such human butchery can only call us back to the Cross.

## A CAR - 'ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH'

The advice, to remain in Tsingtao during the September and early October uncertainty, turned us to the nearby new Christian groups and the untouched villages near them. The great expense of taxis to get to them made me, for the first time since I came to China, have the least desire for a car and for this it was real desire. I realized that my faith was too small to believe that God could give me one but after I confessed this unbelief I was sure that He could and would if it were His will and for His glory. We missed the taxi one Sunday afternoon and while walking home I earnestly prayed, "Lord, isn't there even a little old car that we can have to go to these villages - any kind will do - just so it will run?"

"DRIPPY"

That prayer was the measure of my faith. As a result of a conversation the next day a Chinese friend leaving Tsingtao gave me "DRIPPY," officially dubbed "The Dripolator," a tiny old Woseley runabout about old enough to vote. She remarked as she gave it to me that she feared it would be an imposition, for she had no idea to what depths of trouble and expense it might lead me.

The mechanic was most discouraging but I thought that God would not give a wholly unusable car, so went ahead. Without too mnch expense it was repaired and has taken Miss Huo and Miss Fan and me nearly three hundred miles in these six weeks. Even with constant repairing, often replenishing the engine with oil, (from the name DRIPPY you might have guessed that), and the frequent recharging of the battery, we have done far more work, at about half of the cost, than we could have done in hired cars.

Also DRIPPY has been a constant source of many jokes, great amusement to all of the mission, and even to passersby, and for me is has been sheer fun. In has even the old gear shift to which I am accustomed! Once the mechanic almost refused to be bothered with the car, even for pay, but finally said "Well, there is so little happiness in this world, if this is adding to yours and others happiness then I will repair the car". That now is the basis with him. There has been the added uncertainty as to when the cracked differential will give away so I do not dare to wander too far away as I may have to be pulled home by a mule any day. So we drive it with a prayer and a laugh. It suits my present needs for a car admirably.

Besides the fun and the utility, DRIPPY has been a great faith-stretcher for me - a concrete proof of 'whatsoever you ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father be glorified' The answering depends on the downright sincerity of the motive, whether it is for self or for God, and whether we will keep our hands off the glory and not take it to ourselves in the form of pride and selfishness. You may picture us now packed into DRIPPY as well as sitting cross - legged on wheelbarrows.

## PROTECTING ENEMY PROPERTY

When all of the Japanese citizens left Tsingtao, at the order of their government, they locked up their many cotton mills in the suburbs and turned them over to the care of the Chinese government. Now while Chinese property is being devastated in other parts of China by Japan, these extremely valuable Japanese mills have Chinese policemen on constant guard and even special watchman's booths have been built to give more sure protection at night. Strange, isn't it?

WORKERS HEAR GOSPEL When they left, the city government asked that the wages due the Chinese employees be turned over to them to be paid out. The official in charge is a Christian. He was most cordial and eager that we go to preach to the crowds. Those were wonderful days. Some times we were out on the street, sometimes in a theatre, and several days they were paid at our Presbyterian chapel. Crowds, sometimes hundreds at a time, came to listen to the preaching which continued for many hours. We had extra workers and all had an opportunity for preaching, giving out tracts and talking to indivivuals.

Quantities of literature and Gospels were distributed, General Chiang Kai-Shek's splendid witness being in constant demand. The critical political situation seemed to give zest to the already open eagerness of these years to hear the Gospel.

MILLET FOR THE POOR

There was also a chance to share in the preaching to about two thousand poor in the city, several times this fall when millet was distributed throughout the various Christian organizations.

## SEED IN GOOD GROUND

Last winter a girl about twenty on the way to market stopped to listen where Miss Huo was preaching. She heard very little but believed and went home to lead her father and mother to believe and told her father, who was bedfast, that if he believed that Jesus would heal him. The thought for the healing was her own conclusion since He is God. Outwardly, from so little understanding it seems impossible, but the Lord who knows the heart and will not crush even a broken reed answered her faith and her father is up and able to work today, and at the New Year all idol worship was done away with. Miss Hsun these days has come to a new cleanness of heart, a deeper understanding of Jesus and fuller surrender to Him.

Mrs. Su, 'the Radiant', you may recall. She is still just that. She has been much concerned over her unbelieving neighbors and relatives and borrowed a meeting place for them to hear for several days.

Many of the Christians of the 'Popcorn church' of last winter went to their homes during the tense time and the exodus here this summer. More non-Christians and many children came to the ten days meetings there. Several new believers came out from them. Mrs. Wang, formerly demon-possessed, in spite of home difficulties has grown in faith in the testing and found a deep peace that nothing can touch.

NO ONE HAS EVER TAKEN TIME. DRIPPY took us to another untouched village, Hsiao Chan Shan, where we had a great welcome. In the words of one of the women, "We have known of the name Jesus for a long time but no one has ever taken the time to tell us what it is all about". We put the victrola on a stool they brought out, a poster up on the wall, and with all of the village folks sitting around in the street have taken several hours to tell them what it is all about. The last time this lady brought us a basket of sweet potatoes for a gift saying that the rest of them would gladly give some. We declined them from such a new inquirer lest they think we had gone just for the gift.

CAUGHT BY THE SEA. Business failure and despair were leading Mr. Chang to the sea to

commit suicide. A Christian in Tsingtao picked him up and took him to a church service. He was converted and has since gone home to join the Christian group at Nan Tsun where we visited last spring. They were desperately in need of a meeting place and this Mr. Chang was willing to make easy terms for his place. Now they have cleaned it up and are trying to raise funds for it. So the Spirit leads to gradually build up His Kingdom.

## PAUL FAN

I have already told some of you of the remarkable conversion of Fan Hsu-Tzu, Miss Fan's brother. Three years ago while in High School, all unknown to his family, he became very atheistic and anti-Christian and was definitely preparing to lead an anti-Christian movement among students and farmers. His plans were just ready when he was challenged here in my home, by a visiting college student, to an absolute surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In not more than an hour he had made the decision, had been sent out to another room to make out his sin account, had come back to bring it all openly with Mr. Wang to the Cross of Christ, and was completely turned around - reborn - converted. He began pouring out his heart to Miss Fan, all of the hidden mass of unbelief, hatred for Christ, and his plans for an anti-Christian movement. The next day he apologized to three people, including his sister, whom he had secretly hated because she urged him to go to church. He had been scheming how to break off all relationship with her in the future to avoid her influence. Many were deeply challenged by his witness those days.

These three years he has been in High School among mostly non-Christians and in the face of an atmosphere of persecution, unbelief, and cliques for dishonesty in examinations, which would easily lead many to weaken, he has been as straight as an arrow and developed by the Spirit's own leading, into a wonderfully fine, natural, Christian young man. At graduation he had the outstanding respect of the faculty and of his classmates. His unassuming but unwavering obedience to Christ and his life of prayer have been a blessing to me also.

I am telling you this to ask you to pray for him and his future. So far the government has wanted to save the students from the front line trenches. Considering the condition of the Church all over China there is desperate need for educated spiritual leaders especially among young people. Hsu-Tzu has given himself wholly to God, utterly willing for any sacrifice whatever that Jesus be known and glorified. He has chosen the English name, Paul, as representing his own aim of service.

Altho formerly I had favored training here it now seems clearly the Master's leading that he should go to the States for college and seminary. Since he will have to make much of his own way he will be able to do that better there than here. This Fall, tucked in between the regular work, there have been long hours spent with him on English. This winter he will continue studying English.

Please pray about when he should go and to what college; that God will supply his needs and prepare him for a powerful ministry. Pray for a real Chinese Paul to be raised up.

We are just back from a great trip to the country and will leave for an indefinite stay this week. All is very peaceful and safe, and the villages call.

As ever, Your prayer-begging representative,
Irene Forsythe

**Oh - its War, Death, Suffering—Sin**
**And a rent in the Master's Heart!**
**So let's Give, Pray, Love—Die**
**In His Fellowship have a part!**

**6 Tsi Yang Road**
**Tsingtao, China**

Dear Friends :

Many of you have had no word since the report up to the last of October. There is just time now for a brief one to let you know that we are safe and to thank you heartily for your loving interest, inquiries, and prayers. They have been abundantly answered as only our Holy, Lovingly-Tender God could answer-in permitting me to continue to stay on to witness in the villages thru this war turmoil; in giving a winter of unusual physical strength; in seeing Christ becoming a new Reality to the Christians in this time of trial; and in bringing me to a new closeness to Him.

### IN THE HOLLOW OF HIS HAND

The month of November, to be spent in Kaomi county, was cut short by an urgent call to return to Tsingtao. There was fear that the railroad would stop and we were out without winter clothes. Reluctantly, we left the village, where there seemed a glorious new opening for Christ. Already there were no trains but, in the cold grey dawn of the third day's wait, in an inn, we got on a refugee train for Tsingtao.

**GOD'S LEADING**—Imminent trouble there made us long to get to the villages. For a few days, the only train had refused all baggage and people often were left behind. However, we packed all winter supplies. "Go to the Station," was the Lord's clear guidance to Paul Fan, who was with us. There he found that that afternoon there had been two trains suddenly scheduled. In great rush, the water-pipes were drained, the battery was taken out of "Drippy," the house was closed, goodbyes were said, and we were off. The train was quite empty, we got all of our luggage on-even the folding organ. Within an hour that train was packed till there was hardly breathing space-but that couldn't dim the gratefulness for, and the sense of awe at our Masters' wonderful leading! We were off to the villages to stay. With the exception of one day, I have not been in Tsingtao since. A few days later the train stopped entirely.

Our winter quarters, with a stove, in Miss Fan's west courtyard were comfortable and from here we have gone out to live in eleven nearby villages and visited others.

**FEAR AND PEACE**—We missed the trouble in Tsingtao, but the country too has been upset; very close there has been fighting, with its attendant atrocities and looting. We've seen villages burning in the distance and many times most of the women have fled from the village where we were, some spending the night out in the fields; men have moved animals and big sacks of grain, but thru all of this Fear, the daily witnessing in classes and services has gone on, with the most amazing perfect Peace in our hearts.

This witness is also that of hundreds of Christians thru these months. They've told us, with a new note of joy and shining face, of Christ's presence and protection, of answered prayer and deep, deep peace, under the very conditions that made others flee in terror. Non-Christians have fled to churches and to Christians' homes. Thru it all there have been miracles of marvelous protection, but the greatest of all is the new spiritual vigor of their faith that has been tried by the fire. It has been one of the richest privileges of my time in China to live so closely to the Christians in this time, and to see Christ being formed in them.

An official told Dr. Hayes, of the Tenghsien Theological Seminary, that the missionaries' staying on there had a greater influence than ten years of preaching. Truly, not one only, has been held in the 'Hollow of His Hand'.

**WATER FROM BETHLEHEM'S WELL!**—Living these months in country has been possible only by the loving help and kindness of Mrs. Fan and of the other Christians, in whose homes we have lived. It all has made me appreciate the incident of the sacrifice of David's men in bringing water, at the peril of life, from Bethlehem's well to him—a sacrifice for love's sake. David, feeling unworthy to accept it for himself, offered that water to God. This we've done again and again all winter, in our hearts, offering the gifts of eggs, chickens, food, the sacrifices, the loving care, and the solicitude of these dear Christians to Him. We are not worthy to accept them. Such Love is only meant for Him!

**THE INCENSE BEFORE GOD'S THRONE**—There is time to tell the story of but one village, Huang Wen, where the dead Christians are more powerful in death than in life.

For sixty some years there has been one family of so-called, disgraceful Christians there. No others believed, until one man and his son, in the east end of the village, became Christians. His wife persecuted them terribly — even at her husband's funeral, there was such a quarrel over burning paper and incense (according to Non-Christian customs) that the funeral was delayed.

After a few years, Mrs. Liu, the wife, suddenly had a great desire to become a Christian. Just why, was a mystery, even to her, but she led her whole family to believe. We were there at that time. They've become a fine earnest family. Surely the prayers of the loved one, with Him, account for it.

**ANOTHER FAMILY**—At the west end, a Non-Christian girl, also named Liu, was married to Miss Fan's brother. She became a Christian, and her mother and younger sister then believed, but Mrs. Liu's two sons and their wives persecuted them just like Satan-incarnate. The younger sister often got up at night to cry out her sorrow to the Master. The younger son, especially, did all in his power to torment them. Mrs. Liu wept often over them before us. Her prayers only seemed to make them worse.

**THE PO ./ER OF DARKNESS**—Then, during my last furlo, her daughter died suddenly in the night. The following will show you the depths of superstition and Satan's hold on peoples' hearts. The Chinese, age-old custom is to put the clothes on the person before death, otherwise the spirit goes naked to the next world. It grieved Mrs. Liu very much that she did not get the clothes on her daughter before she died and that she had no chance to get some Christian from Huo Liu Chuang to pray for her.

**THE SPIRIT-MARRIAGE**—Then the second son, against his mother's wishes, made arrangements for a spirit-marriage for his sister. A young man, not married, had died rather recently, so a certain form of a marriage was carried out, and she was buried beside him in his land, with a Non-Christian burial. This Mrs. Liu was helpless to prevent, but she often wondered whether her daughter had really gone to Heaven and how the spirit-marriage and Non-Christian burial had affected her. She also grieved over her having gone without her clothes from this world.

**CALLED BY A DEMON**—One day, a demon-medium sent for Mrs. Liu to come to her house, telling her that her daughter had come back and was there. Mrs. Liu, all excited, went to her house. The demon, by the mouth of this woman, pretending to be the daughter and following the line of Mrs. Lius grief and doubts, said, "Mother, I want my clothes, I am cold and naked."

"Where have you been?" asked, Mrs. Liu, too new a Christian to understand.

"I have been at the gate of the house of the family to whom you married me. I won't go in there! I hate it!" the voice answered.

"Why! did'nt you go to Heaven?" asked her mother.

"You did'nt get anyone from Huo Liu Chuang to pray for me and direct me on the road, (the Non-Christians always have a'road-directing ceremony'), so how could I go to Heaven?" answered the voice.

That was too much for Mrs. Liu. She wept and said, "Come on home with me. I will carry you."

So she put an imaginary something on her back and went home, crying and trying to comfort her daughter. She put her, supposedly, on her bed, bundled up all of her clothes, worth many dollars, burned them at her grave, and then sent a message to Miss Fan that her daughter had come home. When she herself came later to Huo Liu Chuang, and Miss Fan asked her whether she had not given Satan an opportunity to deceive her by her own doubts and grief, she admitted that she had. When all was explained and she was told that the marriage and funeral had absolutely no effect on the spirit of the one already dead, Mrs, Liu, too, realized that it was a trick of Satan. She prayed for forgiveness, her faith was renewed and she went home, with peace in her heart, to beat out the demon with a broom handle! Her'daughter'never came back again!

Mrs. Liu's persecution never stopped. We had a sample one day, as her son's wife vented her invectives on us. It was the worst I have ever heard. In it all, tho, Mrs. Liu's love for Jesus increased. Finally, a year ago, The Master called her to Himself to rest.

She had been dead some months only, when suddenly this younger son and wife and others of her relatives wanted to believe ! We were there this spring. The whole atmosphere of that clan was different ! Most of them either professed belief, or were interested—these hard-hearted persecuting relatives, now speaking so fondly of her, and the second son was the most earnest of all. We had the joy of praying with his wife as she poured out her burden of sin-and she truly felt it as sin—her treatment of Christ and her mother-in-law. My ! had Mrs. Liu seen a tenth of what we saw, she would have been overjoyed.

Again it was the incense of her prayers before God's throne that has become a fragrance in their hearts. Are their prayers more sincere and powerful without sins' limitations? These two families in the same village just literally persecuted their loved ones to the death and now have themselves knelt at His Cross. Such love and power as His !

**PAUL FAN**—Those who have prayed for Paul Fan will rejoice in the budding of the 'prayerflower', grown from such a tiny seed. He has been given a scholarship at Wheaton College for this fall. God has led marvelously so far in the plan. "I will make all my mountains a way" has been our continual promise. There have been many mountains. Some have already become 'a way'; still others are waiting His Time and power. Will you help by your prayer ? There is a deep sense of reverential awe about it. It is **GOD** working thru it all. He is certain. "It is gloriously uncertain **how** He will come in, but He **will** come in—." O. C.

China needs a **Real** Paul. Please pray for nothing less !

I am so grateful for your prayers ! Please, don't forget.

Sincerely,

**Irene Forsythe**

Huo Liu Chuang

May 1938.

6 Tsi Yang Road
Tsingtao, Shantung.
November 1938.

Dear Friends,-

August's heat does have its compensations. It brings people here to this seaport for all over China. Many hours of fellowship, with the exchange of stories of China's condition, of God's miraculous Hand still over-ruling evil, and of impressions of those recently from America, were spent over Chinese food, in my little home, during vacation days.

**Drippy's Doings** "Drippy" didn't help in the vacation except to, in a unique way, add a touch of humor to the days, often too much filled with the agony and heartbreak which surrounds us and which would, but for Him, engulf us.

"Drippy's" 'inners' were bad,-ever a puzzle to the expert mechanic,-and she sounded like the combination of a threshing-machine and a machine gun in action. She even caused a policeman to come running out in alarm to see what new super war-contrivance had arrived. We could only laugh at his expression of inexpressible relief to see that it was only "Drippy" taking us to church.

At last she just flatly refused to be laughed at any more so, after staying out disgracefully all night, was towed to the final inquest. Even the annoyed mechanic lovingly enumerated her good points and just didn't have the heart to scrap her-so she went in for her last chance of life, and we borrowed the big Ichowfu Station truck mountainous as compared to tiny "Drippy" to gather up a crowd of scattered Christians daily for the first meetings, the first of September, out at the "Popcorn Church" at Chan Shan village some miles out of Tsingtao.

They had outgrown the original rooms, a number of new Christians had been added to that already beloved group, and each had cause for praise in spite of innumerable increased difficulties.

In our attempt to visit Wang Chia Lan, "The Children's Church" we got almost out of the harbor but were turned back for more passes and permissions. When what we got from one group was destroyed by the representative of another group we turned back to try that later.

**"Drippy" Revives for Refugee Preaching.** Since it was harvest time we went to our Presbyterian Suburban chapel at Ssu Fang that has been a food distribution center for hundreds of refugees for over a year and there has been excellent evangelistic work done among them. Recently thirty of the many inquirers were baptized. "Drippy", almost soundless-comparatively took us back and forth faithfully those days. There seemed to be real conversions and new Spiritual grouth in a number to whom the Cross and Its grace were just becoming vital realities. Praise Him for a deep peace and unworldly joy that can not only carry but also surmount the world's burdens.

**In The Shadow of The Almighty.** What a heart rest to know that He is Almighty! The miracle of my getting out to the villages-being able to go these six weeks to these various churches-and back to "Bethany" from where I am writing, I can't give in detail but God is above man's orders and permissions. At present there are no plans to return. We have coal, and all necessary supplies at this rest center.

We have just helped with the first Christian wedding in one of the new villages, there learning of the remarkable testimony of a young Christian girl, the only Christian in her big market villages and her miraculous protection during an "air visit". A return visit to that village opened in the Spring found new believers added. A week with one of the oldest churches in this are a with a Christian-Home Program, Young People's Conference and classes for non-Christians ended with a clever extemporaneous presentation at which the Chinese excell by the young people comparing real Christian and non christian homes. Real Christian homes are one of the great needs of the Chinese church!

**The Cross Lifted in A New Village.** Chang Ke Chuang, thirteen villages combined, has never before had any Christians. Two men this last year had had heard indirectly of Jesus. In a time of great difficulty each separately had prayed. Those prayers, from deep ignorance, were earnest heart-calls and Jesus answered. That was an entering wedge of recognition. Thru them we went there to open that village,-for the first time. There is no joy quite so exquisite as that of step by step leading a groups for the very first careful presentation of the Cross especially for the first time thru all of these centuries of utter darkness. Glory to Him, who by Its power, call nearly twenty new confessed belivers and many inquirers to Its Light. A nearby church will follow up. Pray for them, please.

**The Heroine Addict.** There is no time to tell of the marvelously changed man, Mr. Chiu, from a heroine wreck, penniless and hopeless the Lord Jesus has taken away every trace of the habit. He is another of the countless proof of the great power of our Living God.

## PAUL FAN

"Whosoever offereth Praise Glorifieth Me."

**American Impressions of Paul.** Your prayers for Paul have been answered above all that we can ask or think. He was not seasick and found most congenial friends on the way over. He was unexpectedly met in Vancouner, also had cabin mates who changed boats for Seattle, passed the immigration officials without the least trouble, and was welcomed by my cousin there. She writes that instead of the timid individual she had expected she found a "most carefully groomed courteous, aggressive friendly young man, punctilious to the nth degree, joyous, and best of all a born-again Christian, witnessing to the great power of God".

My sister and her husband, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Oregon City met him in Portland "I fell in love with him at first sight" "Doesn't he meet people well" "I like him already" were some, first impressions. The young people of the church gave him a warm welcome and were there the first night bombarding him with questions but he was equal to them all. "I hope Paul's warm love for Jesus will not be affected here in America". Mother wrote that he was well liked by all in the Church to whom he was 'Paul' from the first. I don't believe anyone could have had a more cordial reception than Paul has had." He had many invitations to speak in churches and Sunday Schools. The railroad and granted him reduced reates.

One young man, not previously intending to go to Wheaton, even that late was accepted. He was Paul's traveling companion to Wheaton-where he has since decided to become a missionary. God's plan and love were evident. Even to the least details.

**Paul's Impressions of America.** One of the most remarkable things is Paul's case of adjustment. Not homesick in the least, nor hungry for Chinese food, and altho customs and social organization are totally opposite from those in China, he has not felt the expected strain of strange people and use of English. His letters are overflowing with gratitude for the fine friendly welcome, Wheaton is his ideal of a college, and has a splendid roommate. He is enthusiastic above my hopes All has been provided according to His riches in Glory. Paul says, "The Almighty Jehovah truly is the One Living God the Saviour of thousands. for the one who truly depends on Him, He will abundantly and richly supply all of His needs. By His Love, salvation, and Cross, He has added to my faith in Him".

Paul got first place-98 in the mathematics extrance examination, in his class of over three hundred and fifty. This is a bit of encouragement given to make up for his English difficulty. The work is difficult, naturally, but his enthusiastic plodding and long hours he has put in, with the Master's wonderful Presence, will win out eventually. In speaking of the very considerate interest of the faculty, and student's cordiality, he added, "I mention the above not that I have the least ability. I am not worthy in the least. It is all Jesus' grace given to me. May He receive all of the Glory".

This is a glimpse-enough, I hope, to cause you to praise, thank God, and to urge you to continue to pray for this first and most difficult year,

Just seven more months to give myself to China. Please pray that His Name may be glorified thru them.

Your China Representative,

Irene Forsythe

P.S. Conditions have delayed this printing, Sorry,

[1938]

Mrs E. J. Forsythe
710 Jefferson Street
Oregon City
Oregon

6 Tsi Yang Road, Tsingtao, China.

Dear Friends:

Because of censorship I have not written much to you of China's sufferings -- and Japan's too -- in these months. There is a chance to have it mailed on a U. S. boat so I want to write some things which, while many I have not actually seen, yet I know them to be true, and most of what I say has happened in our area which is not really in the worst battle section. There are those things too, that show that in Jappanese individuals there is a work of God's Spirit away from the butchery and barbarity of their government's system. We are glad for these little flashes in the wide blackness of Hell of War that Japan has brought to China. The prayers for God's Spirit to preserve and protect His church have been abundantly answered. While Christians have suffered in the general condition, scores of miracles record His marvelous Protecting Presence.

BOMBINGS, RAPE AND TERROR

The stories well known of bombing of civilians, of murdering of women and childeren, killing villages wholesale, the rape, and terror are all too true. The reprisal in killing civilians for resistance to their "program of good will and love," is meant to break the morale but it is having the opposite effect. The volune of hate stirred up is tremendous. These reprisals in our immediate area have been to attempt to defeat the guerilla resistance by going to villages where there may or may not have been civilian soldiers, to close all of the gates but one, set fire to the village, then put up a machine gun at the open gate to mow down men, women, and children who flee the fire.

Their robbery of money and grain are acts of some of the old-time- bandit- soldiers and that might have been forgiven by the people, but it is the burning of helpless civilians, and the shameless horrible treatment of women, old and young, that infuriates the Chinese. That, at least, to the old bandits was absolutely taboo. There is a superstition that such conduct would bring certain death, and it would , too, for the band itself would put such an offender to death.

OPIUM TOO, A WEAPON

Even worse, if possible, is the stimulus given to opium raising and selling by the Japanese, who promote it but do not use it. It is too deadly a weapon to use on themselves. On a recent trips from the south of Shantung a missionary saw just fields of opium in bloom. Four spies in the employ of the Japanese, were caught just on my lost trip to the country, by the civilian troops and on each one was found a large package of heroine, carried for sale, Drug stores in Peiping may sell it freely. Here it is sold openly; a whole set, a needle and initial dose can be bought for ten cents -- about 2 U.S. pennies. Compare this with the stringent death penalty for opium users and sellers being enforced by the Central Government not so long ago.

THE GUERILLA TROOPS

The civilian troops have sprung up like the proverbial dragon's teeth, only many times multiplied. They have become better organized, trained and diciplined now till they are the fordes for law and order in the country. Former excesses are being checked. It has resulted in Japan's only having gained the territory immediately joining the railroads of the numbers of provinces supposed to be conquered, but the country area is in the control of the Chinese. Many even now have local magistrates commissioned by the Central Government. It is a mass civilian resistance from Peiping, Tiensien all of the way to Shanghai, and it is the hope of

China. Taxes cannot be collected by Japan and just recently, in a united effort in one night, the railroad from Tsingtao to Tsinan and south was torn up in many places by local units, each being responsible or a section. Communication was stopped for a few days. Retaliation in burned villages and civilian murder has followed. Japanese guards at some of the stations were killed; at Lan Tsun the lives of women and children have paid for that. When the Szechuan troops left Tenghsien, after bitter fighting, 5000 civilians were killed in reprisal, When all will be over is a question; there seems little hope of immediate peace.

This trouble however is uniting China; God has given General and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek a marvelous influence. Even the communistic leaders have been influenced by him and have changed their attitude on many things. An official in Hankow recently was seen reading a Bible and when asked why, he said, "I see the Christians have a real spirit of sacrifice, I too want to believe."

The old Christian General Feng Yu Hsiang, for a few years affected by Russian infuence and not positive in his faith has come back! He is one of the leader of a very enthusiastic group of Christians in Hankow. The many prayers for him thru the years have prevailed.

MISSION STATIONS CENTERS OF REFUGE Mission Stations, churches, and chapels have given a tremendous practical demonstration of Christ's love to thousands upon thousands of refugees within their wall for months at a time, 6000 in one, 4000 in another and it may continue still for many month. It is not possible to tell the spiritual result of this. in Yihsien over 100 at one service, with weeping, stood and confessed Christ as Saviour. It is felt by many that the greatest opportunity of years is opening for evanfelism all over China.

When the Japanese soldiers entered Ichowfu, one missionary fr- ports that they seemed to have a fire mania, They burned and burned till 80% of that large city was destroyed. Strangely they did not admit that it was they who did it, and often came to ask for help from the missionaries to put out fires that guerillas had started -- that in city under their own strict guard! The missionaries had great difficulity in preserving the mission property from the fire.

Four or five hundreds refugees wanted to go to an empty school building for safety when the soldiers entered. The foreigners were one in each of the other compounds, but gave permission for the refugees to go on into the school. They were all non-Christians but one. He led them and taught them to pray. That was the only place not entered by the Japanese, and when Mr. Wilson went later to see them they were just overjoyed,--"We never knew how to pray before," "We know now how to pray to God," "God has heard our prayer," were some of the remarks from non-Christians that greeted him.

A young woman, a non-Christian, come to our rooms at Nan Wa. She was jubilant and overflowing in her praise that God had heard her prayer. Just the newest sort of a follower -- She had heard somehow that God would hear prayer. She knelt in the courtyard to pray to Him. "The Japanese came several times to my village, "She said, "and entered every home on our street but ours!" How He answers the slightest faith and faintest cry!

KAOMI--HSI YU The testimony of the Hsi Yu church regarding the good hand of God upon them at

the time of the change of control has been most interesting. The church was filled with Christians and non-Christians holding services for hours at a stretch and there was a large number of women. The incoming troops visited the church but make no disturbance. When shown the Bible they said, "That is a good Book." Another said,"Jesus was a good man."These groups were not molested in the least while others suffered in the near-by countryside.

HEATHEN VILLAGES — Three villages in Pingtu were burned, with great loss of life and property. Here the 'gods of wealth' the New Year ancestral idol-scrolls; and even Tien Lao Yen idol-scrolls(the non-Christian term for the True God)are made. Such shook followed the burning that for nights afterward many slept out in the fields, fearing to return home altho the soldiers had gone. There is no Christian in all of those villages. One living near there has asked for prayers as he plans to go to preach to those left. Three out of five of these people were killed.

KU HSIEN — The Christians in Ku Hsien each had praise for His care when the Japanese soldiers entered. With little time to plan, each was led in just the way that afterward showed the Lord's wonderful love. Mrs. Fu got to her mother's home, on a bicycle missing them just by a turn of the road. $60.00 was taken from Mr. Fu but later returned by another Japanese soldier. Mr. Shin had no food that night in his shop and was going to bed without any, when a Japanese soldier brought him a bowl of rice.

When the Japanese soldiers entered Mr. Li's home the first word was,"Are there any young girls here?" Fortunately all had gone. When the hidden money was not found, his fur garment was slit several times with a bayonet and finally when a gun was held against his heart, Mr.Li committed himself to God-- but on opening his eyes he found himself alone; all had gone. She says he is truly living a new life, that of one raised from the dead.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS — A Christian was leading his wife and daughter out of a village by a side road as troops entered. One of them stopped them. He tried to talk but as he was not understood, he finally drew a Cross on his hand. The soldier let them pass.

OUT OF CONTROL — The story is told of a group of Christians in Kiangsu taking refugee in the church when the troops entered. Soom there was a loud knocking at the gate and a voice called in broken Chinese,"Quickly open the gate!" Fear made them delay but at last they answered the insistent calls. Outside the gate there stood a Japanese officer with thirty Chinese girls. "Here, take these girls in and protect them," he said, " I cannot control my men!" He went into the church, and knelt with the Chinese pastor to ask forgiveness for the sins of his people.

"I'LL NOT RETURN" — A young Christian Japanese soldier in Peiping when ordered to the front said, "Iwon't say -- 'See you again'(the oriental 'good-bye') for I'll not come back." On the remonstration of his friends he said,"No, I'll never fire a shot at the Chinese." He later was reported dead but not in action.

VILE BLASPHMY — Our Presbyterian Mission church in Soo Chow the Japanese are using for a stable and using the Episcopal church for a brothel. None of our missionaries are allowed to return there.

INTERNATIONISM

INTERNATIONISM

It is strange how the national allegiances have come out in the south Shantung. A big Chinese - owned mine at Tsao Chuang was under a German manager. He prvented the Chinese from destroying it -- lest the Japanese get it in tact-- but sent word by a German Catholic priest to the Japanese to come in. He o ened the gates for them and they took possession. Then the grerillas made a distinction in their treatment of Catholics and Protestants. Mr. Kepler, on the way to Tenghsien from Yihsien had to protest several times that he was an American Protestant. A guerilla told him that they just carried off a German Catholic priest that day. He has not been heard of since. Still another German Catholic priest near Ichowfu told the Japanese that he was no friend of theirs . Some have wondered how he had escaped their guns.

A German Catholic priest in Chu Cheng gave his personal guarantee to the parents for some dozen young women to go to do propaganda work for the Japanese. The troops were suddenly moved, the girls disappeared, and the priest had to flee for his life with the soldiers.

RETURN FAVORS

At one of our former city Evanglization Centers the Japanese burned the houses opposite and those just up to the church building. Later the commander came to the pastor and said,"See, we have treated you so well and spared your buildings now you return the favor. Give us thirty girls from refugees." The pastor bravely refused and God answered prayer that they were not further molested.

BLINDED EYES

A Japanese pastor was sent by his congregation to Peiping to invertigate conditions. He told a friend,"In Japan our eyes are blinded and our ears are stopped." He felt sure though, even in Decemver, that Japan had no territorial ambitions. This friend arranged interviews for him to get the facts. She said his face became sadder and sadder each day. He went back to Japan to tell his people what he saw.

From Mabel Jones' letter, Showchow, Anhwei. I saw something yesterday that I should have said a short time ago could not happen here. Fathers and mothers sending off their children between the ages of 5 and 15 en masse to Hankow in connection with Makame Chiang's project to save the children of China. She had plansfor taking care of them in institutions and giving them the educational and industrial training advantages best suited to each child. Children have been carried off by the hundreds to a "neighboring country" from the "Occupied area" I think her movement is being financed by the International Red Cross. Very likely you have a share in it. (The neighboring country is Japan)

The relief of those parents is very pathetic-- indeed it sometimes approached joy. They have carried intense anxiety on their children's account, now they have the hope that they will be saved to China and after a few years they may be reunited. Think of such a state of affairs in this country where the very life of the nation is built upon the family group. Even grandmothers are reconciled to seperation from their precious grandsons. The Children themselves are keen to escape. A few have wavered and appealed to me for protection when the "last days" come. Naturally, I can promise nothing, but I am really hoping for this and much more.

THE GREATEST TESTIMONY By Madame Chiang Kai-Shek

THE GREATEST TESTIMONY

By Madame Chiang Kai-Shek

"It gives me very great pleasure, therefore, today, to tell you that by your work and the spirit that underlies it, you have make manifest the meaning of true Christianity. The results of your efforts are so appreciated by the Government and the people that the Generalissimo has now found it possible to have that law forbidding religion to be compulsorily taught in Christian schools amended so that religious subjects may henceforth be taught in registered mission schools. This decision is the greatest testimony in the history of China of our appreciating of the value of the real, vital contribution that Christianity has made to the spiritual well-being and the livelihood of our people. I am pleased to say that you have had the leading share in making this realization possible, by interpreting practical Christianity in its widest sense."

TO TEARS

By Toyohiko Kagawa

Ah tears! Unbidden tears!
Familiar friends since childhood's lonely years.
Long separated we,
Why do you come again to dwell with me?

At midnight, dawn, midday
Ye come; not wait your coming nor delay;
Nay fearless, with what scorn
Ye picture China by my brothers torn.

Thy scorn I must accept.
But I an no coward; pray heed ere more ye've wept;
I love Japan so fair,
And China too; this war I cannot bear.

"Is there no other way?"
Thus do I search my spirit all the day
Nor ever reach a goal;
I live, but only as a phantom soul.
Like Christ who bore our sins upon the Cross,
I, too, must bear my country's sins and dross,
Land of my love! Thy sins are grievous to be borne,
My head hangs low upon my form forlorm.

Ah tears! Unhidden tears!
Long separted we,
Alas! had come another day
When I must dwell with thee.

**The roads to the villages still run as of old**
**Though their sufferings and strange horrors will ne'er be told.**
**Praise Him! that they, too, bear His messengers fleet,**
**Heart torn, yet joyous, to share His comfort so sweet.**

Miss Fan and I are just back to "Bethany" after a two-month's trip - a strenuous two-months of visiting ten church - groups, with three services each day, with many personal talks which brought many problems, sins, and victories, too, before the Master, and of witnessing to numbers of non-Christians, with the joy of seeing new souls won for Him. Incidentally there were the celebrating of Christmas four times, the being go-betweens for two wedding engagements, the arranging for a new chapel in one of the recently opened villages, beside the being on constant demand by the ever-present friendly Christians - all of this in the coldest part of the year.

Are you surprised that I wondered without Miss Huo, who was unable to be with us, how we'd ever manage? With every doubt, however, come the answer, "Lo, I am with you always". How marvelously graciously it was true! What a wonderful Saviour He is! He just never lets you down if you trust Him! At more than one time of weary emptiness, He came with such strengthening power that I, as never before, experienced just surrendering to Him and letting Him give the message to me, without the self-effort that causes strain and weariness. How I praise Him! The last weeks He even tempered the weather, until all predicted that Spring had come, but we had just barely returned here, when there came the biggest snow and the coldest days of the winter. We, however, were snugly settled for a real rest in the light warm rooms with Mrs. Fan's delicious cooking to enjoy.

Not till we meet before Him, I suppose, will you know how your prayers have been answered, but truly many times there must have gone up a prayer of loving remembrance from you, and just when we needed it most-if not, there could not have been the release of power. May He give you new joy to encourage you to still remember! All praise to such a Loving Saviour - The Almighty God!

Thank you so for your letters, Christmas greetings, and gifts, which reached me at intervals by messenger. What joy they brought! Please accept this as my personal reply—as unsatisfactory as printed letters are—otherwise I couldn't send you any message. I am hoping to see you on furlough next year. July 9th, on the Canadian Pacific steamer, "Express of Japan", is the sailing date from Shanghai. I hope to see many on the west coast during August, the furlough plans are indefinite.

## TRIALS BRING NEW SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

The many questions naturally in your minds I will answer later. How marvelous has been the protection, the clear guidance and deep unpreturbed peace of heart that has been given to the Christians over all of the field. The price has been a tremendous one but there is, thru the whole Christian group, a decided new assurance of God's presence, of His Reality, and a growth in the ability to see His Love even thru the adverse circumstances.

There is a new light on the faces as each tells of the experience, thru these days, of the miracles of God's love.

Among the non-Christians there is a serious earnestness and openness born of the circumstances. Several members of a very wealthy family, taking refuge in a small village, where there is a chapel have become Christians. The increased number of elderly and middle-aged men in attendance seems as an indication of the new opening. Just this week there came an invitation from a large village, impregnable to the gospel for many years, to go there to open it up. Two wealthy families have offered rooms for living and meeting. This will reach you in time to pray for Liu Chia Chuang. While there is a turning to God, still great multitudes lack that sense of sin and repentence which would surely open the way for China. Please pray for this.

## A CHRISTLESS AND A CHRISTIAN CONTRAST.

**The Christless A Pistol.**

We entered the massive gate leading to the series of courtyards, in which were high fine buildings of a formerly great family. The Tsingtao business and several branch firms had failed with tremendous losses. The oldest son was a Christian, the only one in the family. It was he who was formerly reported as the man on the way to the sea to commit suicide having been stopped by a Christian and later converted. Over a year ago he bought an organ which he planned to donate to the local group. Conditions prevented its delivery. His younger brother, going deeper and deeper in despair, finally, shot this Christian, three others of his family and himself, all in one day. His mother, wife and two sons, all that are left of the family, barely escaped his mad pistol.

On this trip we delivered the organ and the clever, aged mother insisted that we stay for dinner at which, we discovered later, we ate the shrimps, chicken, and fish which they had offered, the day before, to the spirit-tablets of the dead, at a great ceremony of burning paper and of the chanting of prayers for the dead by the temple-priest.

The sorrow, emptiness, and hopelessness facing that mother! We tried to pierce it with His loving Word, but there was no visible result. The great empty, not too-tidy halls startlingly pictured the futility of wealth and the hopelessness of a Christless death.

**With Christ A Rose**

Come with me now to another home-also once a great family but reduced to poverty by the waste and sinful expenditures of Mr. Tung, before he found himself, in the cleansing and forgiveness of the Cross. Then his whole family became Christian.

This summer he lay in a half-stupor for three days. When he came to, he said that he had seen Heaven, the Lord, Peter, James, and John and that he must soon go back. In the few hours he just pled with non-Christians to believe and kept urging all to pray. He gave instructions for a Christian burial. They were just the one family of believers in a recently opened village; without these definite instructions the others might have forced the widow to follow the old rites. When asked about the burial clothes, so essential and important to non-Chisrtians, he said that clothes made no difference as Christ already had his white garment awaiting him in Heaven.

He preached and pled until he could no longer speak, then still pleading, wrote on a slate, his daughter steadying his hand - so he went. Unbelieving relatives all witnessed to the grace of such a death.

He had before bought two dwarf rosebushes so they put them before the coffin. Each had had a tight bud for many days. During the prayer at the funeral service, the non-Christians tell that there was a loud cracking sound. They all heard it and looked with fear at the coffin, but saw that the sound came from the roses which suddenly opened into beautiful full bloom. Then when they raised their heads from prayer, the Christians, too, in surprise, saw the roses fully bloomed! This may not mean so much to us but it seems to have been one of God's ways, often so inexplicable, which he used to speak to them to whom it did mean much!

Mr. Tung's death deeply impressed all of that clan. In their poverty (we lived there ten days) that home is a center of joy, hope, and peace, where one is conscious of His presence. God's evident blessing too is on that home. Even Mrs. Tung's seven - tenths acre of beans bore more than the three acres of her non - believing sister-in-law. God cannot but provide for the trusting widow and orphans. His Name's glory is at stake. The head of the village and others have come out since to openly believe. "I am come that they might have Life".

Please pray for a group of some twenty new Christians at Wang Ke Chuang. Good news too comes from the "Childrens Church".

## PAUL FAN.

You who are praying for Paul, will want some news of him. Add more thanksgiving to your prayers for they too have been heard!

Not the least homesick, nor hungry for Chinese food; feeling perfectly at home in America, for he says, "The All - Powerful Jehovah makes all circumstances suitable for me;" working ever so hard on his studies, made difficult by the English, yet not in the least discouraged; glad for many opportunities to witness for Christ in America; full of joy and worshipfully praising God, he has gotten thru the hardest, first part of this great adventure.

A senior at Wheaton wrote to her mother "Yes, I have met Paul and think he is grand; I haven't been able to see him since I got your letter for every time I see him, he is surrounded by many friends. Every one seems to be crazy about him and he has made his way wonderfully. One night at prayer meeting he gave a wonderful testimony. He is a splendid representative from China!"

A professor in another institution said of him, "That is a fine young man. He will go far". Another wrote, "Everybody is his friend-just bubbling over with joy, gives Honor to whom Honor is due, he is an inspiriation in every contact because he is a faithful witness, mighty in faith".

Said of the university Christian Union of University of Washington, "That particular group of young people are mighty in prayer for him and he is on inspiration to them". They know him thru his letters to a friend and the reports.

From Paul's letters (slightly corrected)—"I am always under His Care and Love and full of His joy in my heart. He is The Almighty One, everyone should bow his head to worship and adore His Holy Name".

"I hope He will really use me for His work. May anybody who sees me, see Jesus Christ. May His work thru me spread thru the whole Chinese territory, then His Holy Name may be glorified."

"I feel there is a great and heavy responsibility waiting for me to bear for so many of my people have not even heard of the name, "Jesus". I feel that their souls are in my hand. My first responsibility, and one from which I cannot escape, is to bring people to know the Lord. Also I feel the need of China for leaders to reform and build her up. I have such a burden for the homes of China. My feelings are contradictory. To say I am filled with joy is true but in my heart, at the same time, is a deep sorrow. I feel that if for one day God's work is not done I can't be happy for one day; if in a year it is unfinished, I can have no joy all that year; as long as I live and have not fulfilled God's will, that long I can have no happiness."

"Because I am a son of God, God's concerns are my concern."

"All striving for everything else is empty, only the striving for things spiritual is worthwhile."

God's answers to prayer demand more prayer. Please do not forget Paul.

## "BEAR, FOR THE LOVE OF HIM"

May I share something that has helped me? It might help some other.

"What then is the true way of loving ones friends? It is to love them in God, to love God in them; to love what He has made them; and to bear, for the love of Him, what He has not made."

This came in a friend's letter—"Bear, for the love of Him, what He has not made." It has illuminated to me Christ's commands to love ones' enemies, to pray for those who mistreat us or are unlovely, and that we must not bear a critical nor resentful spirit toward them.

"Bear, for the love of Him", because another's wrong or unlovely attitude has already wounded Christ severely. That is enough. Because we love Him, we must not add to his heartbreak by feeling hate, envy, resentment, criticism, or even self-pity. If we do, we only add more to Christ's already, wounded heart. He asks us for a self-less sympathy for His hurt, for a real sorrow that another has sinned, and He wants to use His love in us toward that one. Then His Heart can be comforted.

The Spring shedule is a full one—many possibilities—yet many difficulties. His Plan can be realized only as you bear us up in prayer. I am sure we can count on you. Thank you.

Your Representative,

Irene Forsythe

P. S. Latest news! "Drippy" has been given a generator so the cranking-days are over!

February 1939.
6 Tsi Yang Road
Tsingtao, China.

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Great treasures have come, in China, these years-
Love for a great people, friends who know Him.
Thru sharing their daily lives, joys, and tears,
I've known more really our Saviour from sin.

The last wheelbarrow ride is over; the long Spring schedule now is finished. Packing, writing reports, and seeing many friends for the last time have filled the days since our return a few days ago. A last word from China will let you know briefly, of the past months and the home address.

**CHRISTIAN HOME CONFERENCES**

From February till the first week in June was spent out in the villages. A new feature of these months was the holding of six, county, ten-day, Christian Home Conferences, in which our team cooperated with Mr. and Mrs. Coonradt, who are back from furlo. These classes have been held at a church center; Christians came from all over the country bringing part of their food, and all sharing in a common kitchen. The Christian's homes were more than crowded but, in spite of many inconveniences, all settled down for ten days of happy fellowship and study. There was great excitement when over a hundred delegates, at each of the two largest classes, came from all directions. Christians, - believers for many years - pastors, Elders, recent believers, new inquirers, all joined in the full day's schedule, which began before dawn and ended late at night. We were especially glad for the large number of new believers and inquirers, for it shows, in a little way, the great new evangelistic opening born out of the years of trouble.

The "Christian Home" course included all of the phases of the old non-Christian home standards and customs compared with those of Christ, each applied to these relationships, Hygiene, and special mother's instruction in childbirth and child-training. Also there were classes in Bible, Phonetic (the simplified Chinese alphabet), Catechism, and singing. Numbers of non-Christians attended the informal evening meeting, at which there were a gospel message, witnessing, prayers, and spontaneous group singing. These brought out a volume of wonderful stories of God's Love and Protection through the difficult years. It is a cause for gladness that new faith, new dependence on God, a new certainty that God is Near, Living, and as old a miracle-working God, and that a great volume of spontaneous preaching has grown out of the sorrow of the days. The last night the Chinese girls, led by Miss Huo and Miss Fan, most cleverly portrayed the evil in an unchanged Christian home and Christ's solution. The total of the daily average attendance of the six classes was over 800.

These conferences took us pretty well over more than half of the field so it has been a series of farewells to many to whom I feel a very close spiritual relationship, so it was not easy to leave. The Master does not leave so that is what matters most.

**"IT SHALL NOT COME NIGH THEE"**

Again thru the months, our Lord, The All-Sufficient One, has marvelously led and protected us. We had just left one village, as originally planned, and gone but a half an hour when that village was bombed. At another place, during a service, a distant part of the village was shelled. One other was bombed on the night before our arrival, was peaceful all of the time we were there, and then soon after was badly bombed. The last class was in the battle area, where a few days before there was fighting; nothing happened while we were there but a short time after there was more trouble. This has been repeatedly true all the two years.

**"IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THEE?"**

In the mountains there is an entirely Christian village made up of seventeen families. It is one of the oldest churches. There are no temples, idols, nor bound feet in it. Some, however had become proud and cold hearted.

This Spring one man from each family was sent to repair the road. Troops coming down the mountain suddenly trained a machine gun on them and fired. It is difficult to believe that by jumping and dodging seventeen men could avoid that fire, but not one of them was killed and one only was slightly wounded on the hand. Later from that place they picked up 47 empty shells. Awakened and awed at the miracle of God's protection, the pride and coldness melted some and their thank-offering provided for the delegates during the days of the class.

**THE CHILDREN'S CHURCH** Many of you will remember it. It is still a children's church for there is still no local adult to assume responsibility. A Christian family has moved now a few miles distant and they belong there. The children are mostly young people now, several of the older boys have work away home, the girls are getting married, but a new group of children are following them.

One of the first boys, a trustee, is a servant in the China Inland Home here and is very highly spoken of. I saw him Sunday and thought that if he alone were the only Christian, but he is not by far, our long difficult trips would still be worthwhile. One of the oldest girls is now able to teach their little school for about twenty children. While the adults have not come out to believe they are coming to understand a bit what it means. The father who so mercilessly beat his son some years because he believed this time spoke to Mr. Coonradt of that with regret. The father who had persecuted his daughter before, after she fell into sin and left the little church, talked to her to urge her to go back, comparing her life as a Christian with the present. Gradually even those adults must bow to Jesus.

This time we realized even more vividly the mud of their environment. Two girls had really sinned terribly. One came back, made a public confession, and seemed really repentant. The other, miserable in her heart, confessed all willingly to us, and seemed sincerely to desire to break with the sin, but partly too because of her wicked old grandmother, who hoped to gain from her sin, she did not make the decision. The communion service, at which her name was dropped from the roll, will not soon be forgotten. All felt the hurt so. Will you please pray for her? I feel sure that the Master has not given her up.

In the winter the old evangelist had a chance to buy a large vacant lot very cheaply. The term for the rented rooms is soon up and other houses are not available. When we saw the lot we realized that it was the threshing floor where we preached the very first time that Christ's name was made known in Wang Chia T'an, ten years ago.

The young folks have, beside their regular Sunday offering, pledged $ 60.00 for the new church. We were most interested in the service the last night we were there. They took up the collection, the boy counted it with great solemnity in their presence, later two others and the old evangelist made two separate entries on their accounts. They took from their collection part of the cost of bowl, a tumbler, and plates for the Communion. The girls hemmed the cloths and put a red Cross on them. Before the evening service the boys, without assignment, came in to clean the lamps. This is all laying a foundation for some day, when they are free in their own homes, for a real indigenous church. As we left, the lad who took our luggage to the boat, when given a bit of money, turned so naturally and happily and gave it to the old Elder for the church. Please pray now for gifts to build the new church - that it will be a real sancturary.

**PAUL FAN** Paul is doing very well indeed. In spite of all of the handicaps of language, the first term he made two full credits, and now for the first six weeks of the second term, has a general average of 80, with 90 in one subject. He has been delighted that he has had chances to speak in several churches. "How can I thank and praise the Lord, Almighty God, for using me in His work", he said.

"The first six months I was curious about the new world, the new people, the new language, and the new ways of living. They kept me busy from morning until night. All things about China were almost left aside for a time. Soon the new world became familiar,

the new people became friends, the new language has become more familiar, the new ways of living have become old, and I begin to have more time for concern for China" . . .

"Yes, I have seen Paul twice and I like him much. . . . From what I have see of him, I believe he will be a real messenger for God in China, should The Lord tarry," a friend wrote.

"We enjoyed seeing Paul so much. He seemed very happy and the other young folks were very enthusiastic about him", another wrote.

This is a glimpse of his heart in a March letter,. "You think I am happy, but I don't know how to answer it. I have joy but I have no real joy. I am groaning day and night. I have seen all of the evil things of this sinful world. All of these are my burdens; what time I can complete my duty, then I will have real joy in my heart. If not, the only thing I have . . . broken heart! Oh! I can do nothing, Lord, strenghten Thou me."

**THE CROSS LIFTED IN A NEW VILLAGE**

Liu Chia Chuang has been a veritable rock - a bit of the old, old, conservative China. There have been no Christians there all of these years. Many have prayed for this large market town for years; it is the one I asked you to pray for in the last letter.

Two years ago, a girl about fourteen became a Christian, while visiting where Miss Huo and Miss Fan were holding meetings. She returned to her home in Liu Chia Chuang, and, as much as possible in that restricted environment, fearlessly and gladly told what she had heard.

Early this last Fall, her humble home was burned being hit during a bombing. The roof and the walls fell in. Her baby sister was killed, her mother and other sister were wounded. A beam, fell just in front of Miss Han but missed her. An insecure wall just beside her, which her father had constantly cautioned them not to touch for fear of injury, withstood the shock, and she was unharmed. She heard, as a voice speaking to her, "Run quickly!" so she scrambled out over the ruins of the back wall to safety as fire in the courtyard had closed that exit. Later they discovered that all of the clothes of the other members of the family, but hers, kept in the same clothes - press were just riddled by bits of the bomb. I saw one garment just full of holes. Some of the things were blown to bits but not a single thing that belonged to Miss Han was harmed in the least. When neighbors asked Mrs. Han, who did not then believe, how it happened that neither her oldest daughter nor her things were touched in such a ruin, she answered, "She believes in Jesus".

This, is seems, has been for the purpose of bringing Jesus to the attention of the village. This became widely known and many began to inquire. This last Spring a wealthy family was willing to loan rooms for meetings and a place for us to live, so they sent inviting us to go. Crowds daily packed the rooms - many from curiosity to be sure - but they heard of Jesus and the Cross.

Miss Han's mother, some of they young women in the exclusive courtyard where we lived, and a number of others believed. Mr. Han. is poor and plants without rent some temple land; he is not ready to give up that benefit altho it forces him to prepare the offering for the New Year ancestral worship. There is wedge now in the time - old ignorance and darkness, in spite of Satan's opposition, and there is a little group belonging to Jesus there now.

I feel a great sense of awe and privilege that such an experience has been mine to go thru these years of China's heartache with the village Christians and to see Christ being formed in them. It is a Living proof of God's Almighty alchemy to bring good out of the horrible.

Until further notice please address me at 710 Jefferson Street, Oregon City, Oregon. I hope to see many of you. Please do not forget China!

Tsingtao, China
June 1939

Irene Forsythe